

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

<b>Applicant:</b>	Tomohisa Sakurai	<b>Examiner:</b>	Unassigned
<b>Serial No:</b>	To be assigned	<b>Art Unit:</b>	Unassigned
<b>Filed:</b>	Herewith	<b>Docket:</b>	17324
<b>For:</b>	SURGICAL OPERATION APPARATUS AND CONTROL METHOD THEREOF		<b>Dated:</b> December 22, 2003

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,217,003, dated June 8, 1993, issued to Wilk;
2. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2000-206544, published July 28, 2000 together with an English language abstract;
3. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 7-136173, published May 30, 1995 together with an English language abstract;

---

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"**

**Express Mailing Label No.:** EV219147555US

**Date of Deposit:** December 22, 2003

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: December 22, 2003

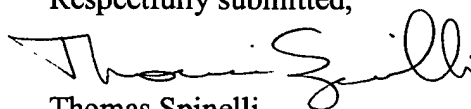
  
Thomas Spinelli

4. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2000-254141, published September 19, 2000 together with an English language abstract;
5. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2000-217826, published August 8, 2000 together with an English language abstract;
6. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 9-98979, published April 15, 1997 together with an English language abstract; and
7. European Patent Application No. EP 0 776 738 A2, dated June 4, 1997.

Applicants are submitting a copy of references 2-7. Reference 1 is not being submitted herewith, as copies of U.S. patents are no longer required per the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) in effect as of June 30, 2003.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Spinelli  
Registration No.: 39,533

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser  
400 Garden City Plaza  
Garden City, New York 11530  
(516) 742-4343

TS:cm

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	Docket Number (Optional) <b>17324</b>	Application Number <b>To be assigned</b>
	Applicant(s) <b>Tomohisa Sakurai</b>	
	Filing Date <b>Herewith</b>	Group Art Unit <b>Unassigned</b>

<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>
------------------------------

*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		5,217,003	6/8/1993	Wilk			

<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>
---------------------------------

REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
						YES	NO
	2000-206544	7/28/2000	Japan			✓	
	7-136173	5/30/1995	Japan			✓	
	2000-254141	9/19/2000	Japan			✓	
	2000-217826	8/8/2000	Japan			✓	
	9-98979	4/15/1997	Japan			✓	

<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS</b> <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i>
--


EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
----------	-----------------

**EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	Docket Number (Optional) <b>17324</b>	Application Number <b>To be assigned</b>
	Applicant(s) <b>Tomohisa Sakurai</b>	
	Filing Date <b>Herewith</b>	Group Art Unit <b>Unassigned</b>

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
							YES	NO
		EP 0 776 738 A2	6/4/1997	EPO				

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**    *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*


EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
----------	-----------------

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.